

The requirement for election is traversed because the inventions set out by the claims in Groups I and II clearly are related. Applicants submit that a thorough search and examination of either Group would be relevant to the examination of the other Group and would not be a serious burden on the Examiner. Additionally, requirements for election are not mandatory under 35 U.S.C.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action has not established that the Claims designated as Group I and the Claims designated as Group II are distinct inventions as specified in MPEP §806.05(e). Particularly, the Office Action suggests that the apparatus recited in Claims 1-13 and 25-35 (Group I) can be used to practice a materially different process than recited in Claims 14-24 (Group II). Specifically, the Office Action suggests that the apparatus as recited in Claims 1-13 and 25-35 can be used to generate high temperature steam for industrial heating applications such as conversion of coal to liquid hydrocarbons. Applicants submit that the hydrogen generating systems recited in Claims 1-13 and 25-35 cannot be used generate high temperature steam for industrial heating applications such as conversion of coal to liquid hydrocarbons. Particularly, the systems recited in Claims 1-13 and 25-35 include a high temperature water cracking system that is connected to the feed water line. The high temperature water cracking system utilizes the feed water that has been heated to at least 850°C by the steam generator run by the liquid metal reactor, and the topping heater. Applicants submit that there is no high temperature steam produced that can be used in other process. The high temperature steam (the feed water) is connected to the high temperature water cracking system where it is cracked into hydrogen and oxygen. Accordingly, reconsideration of the election requirement is requested.

Further, Applicants elect, with traverse, Species A, as shown in Figure 1, for examination. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-11 and 25-33 are readable upon Species A.

The requirement for election is traversed because the Species A, B and C clearly are related. Applicants submit that a thorough search and examination of Species A would be relevant to the examination of Species B and C, and would not be a serious burden on the examiner. Additionally, requirements for election are not mandatory under 35 U.S.C. Accordingly, reconsideration of the election requirement is requested.

In summary, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I and Species A for examination. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-11 and 25-33 are readable upon Group I and Species A.

Further, submitted herewith, for approval, are three sheets of formal drawings containing Figures 1-3.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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